

National Honor Society Requirements

To be eligible for NHS, a student must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or better and must be a junior or senior. Applicants qualify for membership by obtaining the approval of the NHS faculty committee, which is appointed each year by the principal. Acceptance into NHS is based on 4 criteria: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character.

Eligible students will be invited to an informational application meeting in October. Students must be passing conduct in order to apply for NHS. All activities and service eligible for NHS begins with ninth grade.

NHS members are expected to be involved areas of leadership and/or leadership building opportunities in the goal of building a whole person. All potential members must be actively involved in a minimum of three (3) school and/or community activities.

- Any combination of sports will only be considered as one (1) activity
- Employment may be considered as one (1) activity
- Other examples include but are not limited to:
 - School clubs
 - Student council
 - Student ambassadors
 - Scouting
 - Youth groups
 - Church lector/Eucharistic Minister
 - Martial Arts
 - Community Drama Organizations
 - 4-H, etc...

All potential members must also participate in a minimum of three (3) service projects within the school and/or community. These projects can include Key Club hours as well as the hours required for graduation. Donation of an item(s) will not count as a service project for NHS selection. Total hours of service for NHS is five (5) additional hours of service a year per requirements for STA graduation. For example:

Freshman	$10 + 5 = 15$ hours
Sophomore	$15 + 5 = 20$ hours
Junior	$20 + 5 = 25$ hours (for senior applicants)

Students are also required to write two essays on Service and Leadership. In addition, students must obtain three (3) letters of recommendation from adults other than their teachers. Completion of applications are due in late October (of Junior year). Selection is held in November and the Induction Ceremony is held in December of each year. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Vagedes, NHS advisor by calling the school or jvagedes@youngstowndiocese.org

NHS APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Scholarship:

To be eligible for NHS, a student must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or better and must be a Junior or Senior. The cumulative GPA must remain at 3.50 or better in order to remain in NHS. The grades of all NHS members are checked each semester. Students whose GPA falls below 3.50 will be warned in writing and given one semester to bring up their average. Students and parents will receive a letter regarding this warning period. Should the student's GPA not increase to 3.50, the student will be removed from NHS and not receive Honor cords at graduation.

Character:

Applicants qualify for membership in NHS by obtaining the approval of the NHS Faculty Committee, which is appointed by the principal. The Committee will meet and review the applicants' qualifications and faculty recommendations. A student must be in good standing with the STA faculty, staff, and administration to apply for NHS. A student who has exhibited multiple serious offenses shall be reviewed by the administration for possible probation and/or removal from NHS. Any student who has failed conduct in a quarter will not be accepted into NHS. Any member who fails conduct will be placed on probation and/or removed from NHS under the review of the administration. Serious civil and/or criminal offenses within the community may result in ineligibility or removal from NHS.

Activities:

All potential members must be actively involved in at least three (3) school and/or community activities. Seasonal sports may be included if you have participated in the sport for at least one season at STA and earned at least a certificate of participation from the coach.

- Any combination of sports will only be considered as one (1) activity
- Employment may be considered as one (1) activity
- Other examples include but are not limited to:
 - School clubs, Student Council, Student Ambassadors, Scouting, Youth Groups, Lector/Eucharistic Minister, Martial Arts, Ballet, Community Drama Organizations, 4-H, etc...

Service:

All potential members will submit a list and brief description of ALL of their completed service projects/hours within the school and/or community. These projects must have taken place since the start of ninth grade. Key Club projects should be included here and listed separately. Minimum service hour requirements are those required for graduation in the St. Thomas Aquinas High School Handbook PLUS five (5) additional hours. For example:

Freshman	10 + 5 = 15 hours
Sophomore	15 + 5 = 20 hours
Junior	20 + 5 = 25 hours (for senior applicants)

Service is defined as work or action performed that is:

- of help or benefit to others;
- contribution to the welfare of others; and/or
- continuous useful labor that does not produce tangible compensation

Service (continued):

Contribution of an item(s) during an all-school drive or class project will not be considered as a significant service project.

In addition, a SERVICE ESSAY, maximum one page in length, must also be included with the application. Use this essay to explain the service you have completed. Essays must be typed and submitted electronically as a PDF.

Leadership:

Potential members must submit a typed 1-2 page essay on "How I Have Demonstrated Leadership." You may include information about scholarship, character, service, and your relationship to leadership experiences. This essay must be submitted with the application. Essays must be typed and submitted electronically as a PDF.

Special Notes:

Students should recognize that although academically eligible, they may not have fulfilled the other requirements necessary for NHS membership. Such junior students who maintain academic eligibility will be invited to apply for NHS membership again in their senior year. Students should use the criteria presented in this application form to help assess and strengthen your application for membership if you are not selected this year.

NHS acceptance during junior year does not guarantee membership as a senior. The NHS Selection Committee will review all junior inductees at the beginning of senior year to assure compliance with the listed standards of NHS.

The deadline for this application is Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 3:30 P.M. There will be no exceptions made to late applications submitted.

Students will have the writers of Letters of Recommendations turn in their letters. "Letter of Recommendation" forms can be submitted to Mr. Doenges by email or in paper form by dropping off at the school or mailing to the school.

Applications should be emailed to Mr. Vagedes at jvagedeses@youngstowndiocese.org with all forms listed below attached.

Forms which need to be submitted for NHS application:

Activities, Service, and Awards/Honors Excel Sheet, Service Essay (PDF), Leadership Essay (PDF)

Dear National Honor Society Selection Committee:

I have been asked to recommend _____
for membership in the National Honor Society.

I have known this student for ___ years. We have been associated in the following situations:
(please check all that apply)

___ Moderator/Club Advisor _____ (Club Name)

___ Coach _____ (Sport)

___ Employer _____ (Place)

___ Other _____ (Please Explain)

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PERSONAL COMMENTS:

Signature _____ Date _____

Title _____ Phone _____

This recommendation will remain confidential. This letter is to be returned directly by the adult whose signature appears above by Thursday, November 1, 2018.

Please mail to: St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Attn: Mr. Vagedes, 2121 Reno Drive NE, Louisville, OH 44641. Or scan and email to jvagedes@youngstowndiocese.org Thank you.

National Honor Society Letters of Recommendation

Student Name (Please Print) _____

I understand that three (3) letters of recommendation must come from adults other than my teachers or family members. I also understand the letters of recommendation submitted as part of my application will remain confidential.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

I acknowledge that all the information I have submitted for my application into National Honor Society is truthful and answer to the best of my ability and I forfeit my potential membership into NHS for falsifying information in my application.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Listed below are the names and titles of three (3) adults from whom I have requested Letters of Recommendation:

1.

2.

3.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

National Honor Society Service Sheet

School/Community Service	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Major Accomplishment	Advisor's Name and Phone
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National Honor Society Activities Sheet

School/Community Service	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Major Accomplishment	Advisor's Name and Phone
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National Honor Society Awards/Honors Sheet

Award/Honor

Description

Date